(e) and (f) No, Sir. The main reason for surrender of landline connections is increased usage of mobile phones. Thus, the customers surrendering landline connections are taking mobile phones from BSNL and MTNL as well as other private operators. Total customer base of BSNL and MTNL is also increasing every year.

Permission for IPO

†1343. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has sought approval for IPO from Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision being taken by Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Sir, BSNL Board in its 113th Board meeting held on 25th July, 2008, after considering all the pros and cons of listing and in order to strengthen Company's claim for conferment of Navratna status decided that the Company should get listed.

The Government is considering to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to following reasons:—

- will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status.
- will be useful for improving the image of BSNL.
- will promote growth of BSNL.

Efficiency of Speed Post service

1344. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of the Speed Post service has gone down in recent past;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Speed Post service is unable to keep up with the service offered by private operators;

(c) the reasons for the inability of the post office to render a simple service; and

(d) the steps that are proposed to improve the record of Speed Post service and other services which the post office offers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.